



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2417 | FAX (517) 373.2694

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/bishop/

For Immediate Release
July 1, 2004

Contact: Dennis Darnoi
517-373-2417

Bishop's child's protection bill goes to governor

LANSING — The Michigan Senate today unanimously approved Senate Bill 1025, a bill to create the Michigan Children's Protection Registry. Throughout the entire process, not a single vote was registered in opposition to the bill.

Senate Bill 1025, sponsored by Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, would allow parents to register their minor child's electronic contact points such as e-mail address, instant-messenger address, cell phone and text pager, as well as allow educational institutions to register their domain name.

"This bill will empower parents, prosecutors and school principals in their fight to protect children from being exposed to inappropriate messages," Bishop said. "While no law will conclusively solve the problem of spam or replace parents as the primary resource for teaching children right from wrong, this bill will help make navigating the ever changing on-line world a little less worrisome for parents and a little bit safer for children."

Last year, 70 percent of all spam sent via instant message was pornographic in nature. With a projected 4 billion unsolicited commercial instant messages being sent this year, children's daily exposure to pornography is being increased exponentially. Equally true is that the estimated revenue from gambling services and pornographic content sent to mobile devices in the United States is projected to be more than \$6 billion by 2006.

"The integration of technology into our personal lives and the lives of our children, is a double-edged sword," Bishop said. "Just as a cell phone or instant messenger can serve as a medium to ensure safety, it can also be used to violate our sense of decency.

"I applaud all the members of the Michigan Legislature, as well as those administration officials, who through their hard work and effort have supported taking this crucial first step of extending to the 'digital world' the same level of protection and comfort afforded to children and parents in the real world."

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